

# KENTUCKY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

May 8, 2007, Minutes

Berry Hill Mansion Music Room  
700 Louisville Road  
Frankfort, Kentucky

## I. Call to Order

Mr. George Burkley, Chair, Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

### A. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler attended as proxy for Mayor Jerry Abramson, Mr. George Burkley, Representative Larry Clark, Mr. Don Doty, Representative Ted Edmonds, Executive Director Andrew Fraenhoffer, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Ms. Kimberly Maffet, Mr. Bill Parson, Mr. Michael Simpson, Ms. Nancy Spivey, and Ms. Sue Tamme.

The following members were absent: Ms. Lisa Araya, Ms. Sharon Bird, Senator Charlie Borders, Ms. Dixie Hamblin, Judge/Executive Bill May, Dr. Michael McCall, Senator Vernie McGaha, (Retired) General James Shane.

### B. Establishment of Quorum

Initially 11 members were present, establishing a quorum, with the late arrival of another member bringing the number to 12 members or proxies present.

### C. Comments

After welcoming guests Bill Sanders (Director, Workforce Innovations, Washington DC) and Pete Fleming (Director, Office of State Systems, Atlanta), Mr. Burkley commented on the two WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant proposals submitted by Kentucky for the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Area and the Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Area, a DOL audit conducted of previous Welfare to Work fund usage by Louisville's Kentuckiana Works, and introduced a University of Kentucky publication titled *Making Workplaces Work: Employer Best Practices in Kentucky 2007*.

## II. Action Items

A. A motion to approve the February 13, 2007, KWIB meeting minutes was made by Senator Edmonds and seconded by Ms. Maffet. The minutes were approved as presented with a correction to the spelling of Comair (as one word instead of two).

### B. Committee Reports

- Access Committee: Ms. Spivey, Chair, reported discussion of the following at the Committee's morning meeting:
  - Regarding BRAC, planning grant implementation is underway and additional funds may be available for planning and forums.

- The Committee discussed the WIA State Plan, building reserve funds, WIRED regional economies, the youth development council, customized training, and WIA reauthorization.
- The Committee took formal action to approve the Perkins Plan.
- Ms. Spivey noted the August 6<sup>th</sup> activation date of the new job portal.

Mr. Burkley noted the Committee had discussed the job portal launch and the need for consolidation with local portals to avoid confusion and add value to the system.

He then spoke regarding incentive funds that are available to states when performance measures are met by adult education, WIA, and Perkins programs and noted that Kentucky is not eligible for incentive funds this year because Adult Education did not meet its performance measures.

Senator Edmonds requested that the KWIB be given information about the extent to which Adult Education fell short of meeting performance measures.

- Accountability Committee: Committee Chair, Ms. Maffet, directed attention to agenda packet pages 15 – 17 with information about Kentucky's unemployment rates and various employment elements. She noted that the Committee is working on a Return on Investment concept and expects to have more information in the future. The Committee also discussed the Perkins Plan and EKCEP's Services Express, a 53-foot semi trailer with computer labs for training aspects of mining. The Service Express has been recognized by the US DOL.

Mr. Burkley spoke of the Committee's efforts to refine the accountability reporting tools, profiling the service of EKCEP, and encouraged KWIB members to visit local one stops.

- The Awareness and Alignment Committees had not met since the previous KWIB meeting and therefore did not present reports.

A motion to accept the Access and Accountability Committee reports was made by Mr. Doty and seconded by Representative Clark. The motion passed without objection.

### III. Other Business

- A. Mr. Carlos Cracraft (Branch Manager, Research and Statistics Branch) presented the *Kentucky Occupational Outlook to 2014*, summarizing the information available and responding to KWIB member questions and comments.

Questions were raised regarding who uses the data, if the data is used to adjust programs, if the data is made available to higher education institutions and agencies, and how the information is made available.

Mr. Cracraft responded that his branch collects and analyzes the data; sends announcements of its availability to the general public, various state agencies and school systems; distributes the data via hard copy and via electronic means (disks, and via the Internet); accepts speaking engagements to tell about the information that is available; and responds to questions and inquiries. However, they do not have information about how the data is used and applied by agencies, institutions, or individuals. Mr. Cracraft noted particularly that all data is available on the Workforce Kentucky website, either in a composite format or in response to requests for specific information.

KWIB members requested that availability of the data be communicated directly to the Council on Postsecondary Education and postsecondary institutions.

Mr. Cracraft's anticipated retirement at the end of the month was announced. Commissioner Beth Smith reported that his position will be split into two separate positions and that Mr. Cracraft had agreed to continue temporarily in one of those two positions during a transition time.

A motion to formally thank Mr. Cracraft for his 36 years of service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, made by Secretary of State Grayson and seconded by Ms. Spivey, was approved enthusiastically by KWIB members.

- B. Mr. Bill Sanders (Director, Workforce Innovations, Washington, D.C.) acknowledged the high level of state representation on the KWIB, asked the KWIB members to introduce themselves, and noted that there was no representation from Economic Development or for higher education institutions, specifically.

Mr. Sanders summarized workforce initiatives and activities from the Washington, D.C., perspective, noting the major impact of globalization and the necessity for integration of service delivery linked to access to postsecondary education and training; the need to identify growth industries and to train people for available and coming jobs, targeting community colleges for relevant training.

He spoke of four islands within workforce systems: research universities; business activities; K-12, community college system, and postsecondary education; and workforce systems, all of which must become integrated and cognizant of each others' needs and roles.

He discussed the WIRED process, noting his involvement (but withdrawal from consideration of Kentucky's proposals), the accomplishments of EKCEP, significance of the GI Bill and the need for a comparative initiative at this time, and the continuing change in federal funding for workforce support.

Mr. Sanders suggested that the four following questions be asked:

- 1) If I need help with employment and skills training, is this where I would go?
- 2) When assessing regional economies, do the local workforce areas align? Do they align with economic development regions? Are the local workforce investment areas working with economic development?
- 3) Is there a willingness to streamline the workforce system to provide better services? (The need is to get services to the people.)
- 4) How are you going to institutionalize your vision in a time of tight federal budgets?

Mr. Sanders concluded his comments by noting the need for leadership (a grand kahuna [leader] who can make things happen) and that a big problem is that workforce leadership tends to think too small. He said “let’s not allow our excuses to become more powerful than our dreams.”

Mr. Pete Fleming (Director, Office of State Systems, Atlanta), reiterated that the role of the state board is to be the strategic planner for the system, to follow up on plans, and to know the direction to be set.

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Fleming presented a PowerPoint printout summarizing the status of WIA reauthorization, noting the possibility of passage of a slightly modified Act later this summer but stating that no significant changes are anticipated at this time.

Representative Clark stated that it may be helpful to have the new Secretary for Economic Development meet with the KWIB.

Mr. Simpson noted the need for increased access to higher education and expressed concern about increased tuition costs.

Mr. Burkley closed the meeting with comments regarding acceptance of the WIRED grant process and the possibility of an Executive Committee retreat later in the summer.

The meeting was adjourned.